



MISSISSIPPI  
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS  
OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS



# PRESS RELEASE

**Date:** May 16, 2015  
**Contact:** Grace Fisher  
MDOC Communications Director  
**Phone:** (601) 359-5608  
**E-mail:** [gfisher@mdoc.state.ms.us](mailto:gfisher@mdoc.state.ms.us)

## MDOC BANS USE OF SEX OFFENDERS AS COUNTY JAIL SUPPORT WORKERS

---

JACKSON - The Mississippi Department of Corrections is no longer allowing sex offenders to serve as jail support workers in approved county jails.

Corrections Commissioner Marshall Fisher initiated a review of sex offenders' placement with counties after learning in late April that inmate Jason Rush in Quitman County attended a birthday party at Rush's home. Rush is now serving his convictions for fondling a child under 16 and aggravated assault at the state Penitentiary at Parchman.

With the commissioner's approval, sheriffs can use offenders as jail support as long as they follow MDOC's policies and procedures.

Fisher, who became head of the prison system in January, has ordered all sex offenders to be returned to MDOC facilities to deter any future unauthorized passes.

"As I said when MDOC investigators confirmed that Rush was not where he was supposed to be - in jail - this is a public safety issue," Fisher said. "I don't expect sheriffs to intentionally violate MDOC policies. But I am not assured that what happened in Quitman County won't occur someplace else in the future, especially since MDOC has dealt with victims complaining about seeing offenders in the community and unauthorized passes long before I became commissioner."

The change, effective immediately, affects 11 offenders. In addition to Quitman, other counties using sex offenders in various capacities, such as janitors, cooks and repairmen, include Clay, Hinds, Monroe, and Panola.

####